

KIDDIES JUST GASP AT CIRCUS THRILLS

Garden Filled With Youngsters Silent as Wonders Are Unfolded.

ANIMAL ACTS DELIGHT

Everything Seems New, From the Band to the Fool's Reunion of Clowns.

With an emphatic blast from the brasses and a tremendous reverberation of drums the circus band extinguished its melody. By dropping from swinging, crashing jazz into sudden and utter silence it imperatively pointed the finger of sound to midair in Madison Square Garden. Suspended there, transfixed by shafts of light, whirling madly, perilously, was the little star of the show—a glittering woman creature no bigger than a child—golden hair falling in a torrent, blue eyes flashing, red lips smiling through the strain of unbelievable contortions—Lillian Lettzel.

So arresting was the spectacle of this tiny tinselled woman with the muscular power of a longshoreman, that the rising tiers of circus lovers crowded into the old Garden yesterday to enjoy the first performance of the 1922 season of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey scarcely made a sound.

The charm and the fascinating peril in the spectacle of the small lady throwing herself over her own shoulder again and again—until one quite lost count and blinked in sheer amazement—furnished the great dramatic moment of the show. And squarely in the heart of this moment, at the top of the suspense, there came a voice, a child's voice, with the terrible clarity and carrying power of a child's voice, and it pierced the silence like a knife.

Which was as handsome a tribute from the only people in the world whose opinions are really worth while, as Lettzel ever had. How the little people are regarded by John and Charles Ringling was particularly emphasized at the circus opening, for nothing that could in any way contribute to the joy of the children was forgotten. The best improvement of all is the wide, paved, and fenced sidewalk that now swings entirely around the great oval between the boxes and the sawdust, a sidewalk that children and women can take to without fear or nervousness while the show is roaring ahead. As for the other things, there were whips and picture frames, and jumping jacks, and ice cream cones, and very desirable lines and tangles made out of painted cardboard.

5,000 Kiddies There.
If any grownup present at the machine failed to catch the breathless delight of the 5,000 kids that squirmed in the Garden yesterday afternoon, then he or she is a person hopelessly dull of perception. Box after box was given over to whole parties of children, little boys enormously correct with their stiff collars and large bow ties, little girls dressed within an inch and a quarter of their lives, and also, it must be said, a great many little boys and girls who were neither very correct nor particularly droll.

"What is new in the circus this year?" was a question as familiar as the unescapable talk about the weather. Not that it matters, probably, for who is there that does not believe that the circus could keep going on the singular momentum of its own attractiveness without bothering to add new features from year to year? From the first triumphant concert by the circus band—and it may be said that it is one of the best bands that ever tooted brass or thumped drums in little old New York—until the final wild and desperate surge around the racetrack of the leaping, clattering four horse chariots, there is not a moment that hasn't its valuable

HEIR REGRETS HE MARRIED FATHER'S WIDOW AND SUES

Vandergrift Gets Injunction Restraining Wife From Disposing of Inheritance Until Court Can Decide Who Owns Property of Family.

That a man who, at 22, marries his father's widow and puts his inheritance in her keeping is likely to regret it in time was acknowledged by Supreme Court yesterday by John M. Vandergrift in asking for an injunction restraining his wife from disposing of property he turned over to her until a trial establishes whether he or she owns it. The injunction was granted by Justice Lehman.

Vandergrift, who lives at 44 West Fifth street, is a grandson of Jacob J. Vandergrift, of Pittsburgh, one of the original stockholders of the Standard Oil Company.

In asking for the injunction his counsel said Vandergrift inherited \$150,000 from his grandfather and \$125,000 from his father, Joseph Vandergrift, who married for the second time a few years before his death in 1915. His widow, Mrs. Ruff Vandergrift, was twelve years older than her stepson. They were

married within a year after she became a widow. An affidavit by Vandergrift sets forth:

"She suggested that in view of my inexperience in money matters it would be advisable for me to put the stocks and bonds received under my father's and grandfather's wills in her name. She advised that because of her greater experience and knowledge of money matters and for the sake of convenience and for our mutual benefit the properties should be held in trust for the maintenance of our common household during our married life."

Vandergrift and his wife have separated, and he says she refuses to let him have any income from his inheritance or even to give him \$750 as the dividend from a life insurance company on a policy of \$40,000 which he took out for her benefit. The court learned that Mrs. Vandergrift has sublet her apartment in this city and is preparing to go abroad for two years.

appeal in pleasure or excitement. New and beautiful costumes, a smooth running routine, pretty women performers, marvelously intelligent trained animals, a hundred hilarious clowns met in the fool's reunion, and mixed with all the spice of actual danger to performers, provide a series of pictures that thrillers of the circus content to see merely once in a season.

Trained Animal Acts.
The Ringlings have specialized this year in trained animal acts. The enormous success attained by the trained horses of last year inspired the brothers to search the Continent for similar acts, and therefore sleek and shining equines perform now in three rings instead of one. Thirty beautiful horses, coal black, dappled gray, sorrel, brown and bay, drilling in amazing evolutions.

Also among the new acts that took well yesterday was Mme. Clare and her troupe of trained elephants—that is, for people who like trained elephants. Then there is a troupe of Arabs which contains women performers, a novelty indeed, since the Koran frowns upon such unladylike activities. One of the best of all is an act made up of a pair of equestrian ladies, whose address is given as the Ural Mountains in the circus programme.

Of the familiar acts, there are the trained dogs, cleverer than which simply do not exist; Mme. Bradna, her horse, her dogs and her doves; the Clarks and the Siegrist-Silbon aerialists. And there is Lettzel, temperamental half portion, who is the star of the circus and never for a minute lets anybody overlook that thrilling fact. And there are flocks and droves of interesting new animals—such as a baby hippopotamus, "Tiny Toddlers," and a collection of new freaks.

And down in the basement the elephants.

Twice a day, Sunday excepted, at 2 and 8, Ringling Brothers & Barnum & Bailey will submit these and many other marvels to the approval of the children. And it may be said here in all seriousness that, circuses speaking, the age of a child lies anywhere between 5 and 75.

FIRE CHIEF REINSTATED.
Demarest Was Retired on Pension Four Years Ago.

Battalion Chief Charles S. Demarest, who was retired from service with the Fire Department on March 22, 1918, on a pension of \$1,830, was reinstated yesterday by Fire Chief John Kenlon at a salary of \$4,610 and assigned to duty with the Seventeenth Battalion in The Bronx.

Chief Demarest served as a Major in the Ordnance Corps in France. Three sons were also with the A. E. F. He lives in 1906 University avenue. The Bronx.

ACCUSED OF ARSON BY 'FIRE BLADDERS'

Knitting Mills Head Said to Have Exploited Turpentine Receptacles.

Ment Rizzuto, 36, of 2101 Valentine avenue, The Bronx, was held in \$50,000 bail yesterday by Magistrate Simpson in Essex Market court on an arson charge growing out of a fire Friday night in the loft of the Adelphi Knitting Mills, at 125 Prince street, of which he is head. Detectives Trabucchi and Botti arrested Rizzuto at the request of Fire Marshal Brophy after he had been questioned for more than six hours in the Mercer street police station. Marshal Brophy said seven bladders filled with turpentine were found tied by a string in a storeroom of the loft and there were indications two other bladders had exploded, sending burning fluid in all directions.

Rizzuto admitted he was the last person to leave the loft Friday night. He denied all knowledge of the bladders and said he knew of no reason why any one should set a fire in his loft. It was brought out, Marshal Brophy said, that Rizzuto recently had increased his insurance from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

The arrest of Rizzuto is the first to be traced directly to the new arson squad organized by Mr. Brophy. This squad is composed of picked firemen, who are assigned to firehouses in different parts of the city where fires believed to have been incendiary have occurred. When they get to a fire they look immediately for possible indications of incendiaryism.

Lieut. William Coles of Hook and Ladder Company No. 2 was among those assigned to the arson squad. He was among the first to enter the Prince street building Friday night and made his way to the sixth floor, the loft occupied by the knitting mills. He forced his way into the smoke filled loft and in doing so stumbled over one of the bladders. When the flames had been extinguished he found the seven bladders in the closet and notified Mr. Brophy.

While there has been no alarming increase recently in incendiaryism, Marshal Brophy said there has been an increase in the number of trade fires during the winter months. This was particularly true in November, December and January, but in February and March there has been a noticeable falling off. Trade fires, the department has noticed, reflect business depression.

Figures made public recently by fire insurance companies indicate the loss from fires since January 1 is more than \$500,000 greater than it was in the same period last year. This condition has been recognized by the fire underwriters, who have appropriated \$100,000 for the formation of vigilance committees to combat arson. Bladders filled with turpentine or alcohol, saturated shoddy, powdered celluloid and other devices have been used to start blazes.

Divorce Confirmed in Paris.

PARIS, March 25 (Associated Press). John Wattawa, a law office associate here of Henry F. Hollis, former United States Senator, said today that Mr. Hollis "obtained a divorce recently" from Mrs. Grace B. Hollis before his marriage in Italy this week to Miss Anne White Hobbs of Concord, N. H. Mr. Wattawa added that he was not at present in a position to give the details.

ASKS \$120,000 FOR INJURIES TO GIRLS

Brooklyn Father Sues Mrs. Joseph Riggi for Damages in Motor Wreck.

Four suits in which \$120,000 damages are sought have been begun in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, against Mrs. Cora Riggi of 421 East Twenty-first street, Flatbush. The papers allege that injuries sustained by Mabel F. Treccartin and her sister Cordelia, 14 and 11 years old, respectively, will prevent them ever from having normal childhood.

The defendant is the wife of Joseph Riggi, a candy manufacturer. The girls were riding in an automobile at Garfield place and Eighth avenue April 19, 1921. It is alleged that an automobile belonging to Mrs. Riggi and driven by James R. Evans, her chauffeur, struck the other car.

"The defendant's car struck the automobile in which the children were riding," state the papers filed, "turned it completely around, went a distance of eighty feet, crossed a sidewalk, knocked down a picket fence and was only stopped by an apartment house."

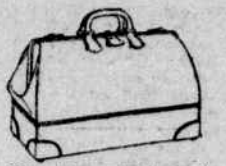
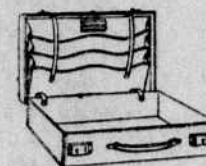
The girls were taken to the Methodist Episcopal Hospital. According to Dr. Charles H. Goodrich, Mabel was unconscious for forty-eight hours. Frank H. Treccartin, of 132 Seventh avenue, Brooklyn, father of the girls, asks \$60,000 each on their behalf. Two other suits for \$100,000 each are for himself for loss of the children's services and expenses incurred.

There is no allegation that Mrs. Riggi was in the automobile when the accident occurred. The complaints state, however, that her car was being operated in "a careless, reckless and negligent manner and at high and excessive speed." Mrs. Riggi admits that Evans was her chauffeur at the time, but says that if her car was in the accident it was not being used with her authority.

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18 " " " " 20 " 14.75

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Van Raalte Tricot Silk Gloves. 12 and 16 button lengths, with Paris point embroidery, guaranteed finger tips, in ponce, grey, silver, beaver, sand, navy, black and white. 1.49
Van Raalte Tricot Silk Gloves. 2 clasp, one row of embroidery; all the best colors. 79c
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Vassar Pumps, all patent leather with broad strap and buckle; also patent vamp with suede back, low military heels and rubber top lifts. 4.95
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White and colored organdie dresses in pretty little models. Some have ruffles and others are trimmed with dainty laces and hand embroidery. 2.49 to 4.98
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Stone Marten Choker Scarfs	\$35
Baum Marten Choker Scarfs	\$45
Hudson Bay Sable Choker Scarfs	\$45
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Our "Red Star" Brand Breakfast Cocoa, packed in our laboratory of the best Cocoa Beans, and is guaranteed pure. 5-lb. tins, this sale, \$1.39; 1/2-lb. tins, this sale, 16c.
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SPECIAL SALE OF FLOUR—Lily White Brand, made of Fine Selected Wheat. An exceptionally fine Bread and Cake Flour. 24 1/2 pound Bag, \$1.14.
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A Special Sale of Cress & Blackwell's Malt Vinegar—Pint bottles, 14c.
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Including the following varieties: Chicken Gumbo, Oxtail Tomato, Vegetable and Julienne in full quart cans; our usual price 24c; this sale, 19c; dozen, \$2.28; each, 20c.
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Quart Cans, 98c Each. Usual Price was \$1.34
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